Besides, Central Government is implementing scheme during 2001-2002 on integrated development of Horticulture in Tribal/Hilly areas under which a project with an outlay of Rs. 147.29 lakhs has been sanctioned for implementation in DAHOD and PANCHMAHAL District of Gujarat. The scheme includes Root and Tuber crops.

The state Government of Gujarat is implementing scheme on Root and Tuber Crops for which an outlay of Rs. 10.56 lakhs has been made for the year 2001-2002 for transfer of Technology, Training of Farmers and adoption of Integrated Pest Management etc. in growing Root and Tuber crops.

Reviewing Agricultural Subsidies

2069. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how far the agricultural subsidies provided by the Central Government have benefited the farming community *vis-a-vis* agricultural sector as a whole;

(b) whether Government propose to review the same and plan for providing WTO compatible subsidies to agricultural products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when such subsidies are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The agricultural subsidies provided by the Central Govt. have benefited substantially the agricultural sector and the farming community. However, it is not feasible to quantify such benefits. The subsidies being provided are compatible with WTO.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

MSP for Crops

†2070. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to fix Minimum Support Price for major crops as per the market trend;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what measures Government would take to protect the interest of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUM DEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Under the present Agricultural Price Policy, the Government announces each season the Minimum Support Prices for twenty-five major agricultural commodities on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the Government are important for fixation of MSP. While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP takes into account several important factors which include trend in market prices, international market price situation, cost of production, terms of trade etc. There is, at present, no proposal to change the existing system.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government is already taking several steps to protect the interests of farmers and these include fixation of Minimum Support Prices of major agricultural commodities and undertaking procurement operations thereof; implementation of Market Intervention Scheme; and using instruments of trade etc.

Earthquake Relief and Rehabilitation Programmes in Gujarat

2071. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any appraisal of various programmes taken up for rehabilitation of the victims of Gujarat earthquake, has been made by Government;

(b) if so, what are the areas where progress in the above work has been found wanting;

(c) what are the reasons identified for slow progress in relief and rehabilitation work; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to accelerate the progress in implementation of the programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) While there is always room for improvements, it appears that the reconstruction/rehabilitation operations